



Volume 1 | Issue 20

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA

1 October - 15 October 2021



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan shuts mosque linked to Iran supreme leader Khamenei

Alarabiya, October 5, 2021

Azerbaijan has closed a mosque linked to Iran's supreme leader, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported Tuesday, days after Tehran launched war games near their shared border in a move denounced by Baku. "The mosque and representative office of Seyyed Ali Akbar Ojaghnejad, representative of supreme leader (Ayatollah) Ali Khamenei in Baku, were sealed and closed today by order of the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan," Tasnim said, without giving further details. Ojaghnejad has held the post since 1996, according to the website of his office, which is located inside the mosque.

Azerbaijan's interior ministry spokesman Eskhan Zahidov said in a statement that the move was necessary because of "a surge in Covid-19 cases in several locations in Baku" and that the mosque's operation had been "suspended temporarily".

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/10/05/Azerbaijan-shuts-mosque-linked-to-Iran-supreme-leader-Khamenei>

Azerbaijan says no Israelis on border, warns against Iran 'provocations'

The Jerusalem Post, October 11, 2021

Azerbaijan's State Border Service (SBS) rejected claims by Iranian officials that Israeli forces are present in Azerbaijan near the Iranian border, saying that Azerbaijan "does not need the support of foreign forces." Ahmed Ali Goudarzi, commander of Iran's Border Guard, claimed last week that Israeli forces are present in "sensitive areas" in neighboring countries and conducting intelligence and espionage work, advising Muslim countries "not to allow this," according to Iranian state

broadcaster IRIB. The Azeri SBS stated in response that there never have been, are not and never will be forces of any third country on Azerbaijan's border, according to the Azeri APA news source. The SBS added that it does not need the support of foreign forces.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/azerbaijan-says-no-israelis-on-border-warns-against-iran-provocations-681653>

Iran, Azerbaijan agree to mend ties, settle differences 'through dialogue'

Alarabiya, October 13, 2021

Azerbaijan said Wednesday it had agreed with Iran to resolve a diplomatic crisis through dialogue weeks after ties soured over allegations Israel's military was active in Azerbaijan. Iran last month protested against what it said was the presence of its sworn enemy Israel in Azerbaijan and vowed to take any necessary action. It staged military exercises near its border with Azerbaijan, sparking criticism from officials in Baku, which has denied Iranian claims. Azerbaijan said Wednesday its Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov had spoken by phone with Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and the pair had agreed to resolve differences through dialogue.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2021/10/13/Iran-Azerbaijan-agree-to-mend-ties-settle-differences-through-dialogue>

IRAN

Iranian Army Kicks Off Massive Wargames along Northwestern Border

Fars News Agency, October 1, 2021

Iranian Army Ground Force started massive military wargames in North-West Iran near the border with Azerbaijan on Friday. The military drill entitled 'Fatehan

(Conquerors) of Kheibar' is underway by Iran's Army Ground Forces in Northwestern Iran. The Iranian Army Ground Forces' armored and artillery units, as well as drones with the support of Army Air Force helicopters are taking part in the military drills.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000709000289/Iranian-Army-Kicks-Off-Massive-Wargames-alng-Nrhwesern-Brder>

Iran unveils tactical Hormuz radar, Shams simulator

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 2, 2021

Home-made tactical radar Hormuz and Shams simulator were unveiled at a ceremony with participation of Commander of Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Ali Reza Sabahifard on Saturday. Hormuz is a tactical radar with average power and Shams simulator is a strategic long-range system. The aim behind designing and building Hormuz radar is to extract information with speed and identify the distance to target with high accuracy in order to give the information to the control center. Also, the indigenous Shams simulator has been built to face against ballistic missiles and some other targets.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84490756/Iran-unveils-tactical-Hormuz-radar-Shams-simulator>

If US is serious about nuclear talks, \$10b of Iranian assets must be unfrozen: Amir Abdollahian

Tehran Times, October 3, 2021

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian told a televised program on Saturday night that if the Joe Biden administration is "serious" about reviving

the 2015 nuclear deal it should allow releasing at least 10 billion dollars of the Iranian assets held in foreign banks. "Americans tried to contact us in New York through various channels, and I told the intermediaries that if the U.S. had serious intentions, it should issue a serious signal. The serious sign is releasing at least \$ 10 billion of Iranian frozen money," Abdollahian asserted.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465694/If-US-is-serious-about-nuclear-talks-10b-of-Iranian-assets>

Iran planning to meet 50% of its energy needs from nuclear power plants: AEOI chief

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 3, 2021

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said Iran has set a goal to meet 50 percent of the country's demand for 10,000-16,000 MW of electricity by building new [nuclear] power plants with a combined capacity of 8,000 MW. Eslami made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Russia's Sputnik news agency. "The second priority of the organization is to develop the production of radiopharmaceuticals and the development of radiotracer generators," adding, "Today, these nuclear power products should be actively introduced in our country in medicine, industry, agriculture, and the environment." Asked whether Iran plans to increase uranium enrichment capacity, Eslami said: "Iran will operate within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), of which it is a member. Iran pledges not to develop or proliferate nuclear weapons. Iran is committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Moreover, under the law of the Islamic Republic and the fatwa of Iran's

supreme leader, the development of nuclear weapons is prohibited.”

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84492504/Iran-planning-to-meet-50-of-its-energy-needs-from-nuclear-power>

Construction of Arak IR20 Reactor to begin within a year: MP

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 3, 2021

The rapporteur of Parliament’s Energy Commission said here on Sunday that according to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), the construction of Arak IR20 Reactor will start within a year. Mostafa Nakhaie while elaborating on Parliament’s Energy Commission’s Sunday meeting with the AEOI Head Mohammad Eslami, told the media representatives: Keeping in mind the industrial, technical, and expert level issues involved in the country’s nuclear industry, and the need to refrain from mere political and security approach about the issue, in today’s meeting the technical and specialist aspects of the matter were surveyed. He quoted Eslami as saying that the AEOI is planning to produce 8,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity by construction of more nuclear reactors, including the Arak IR20 Reactor.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84492769/Construction-of-Arak-IR20-Reactor-to-begin-within-a-year-MP>

Navy Commander: Iran to Build Modern Destroyers

Fars News Agency, October 4, 2021

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani announced that his force is planning to build modern destroyers in accordance with its operational requirements. "The process of building and modernizing destroyer in Navy Force and

defense industries of the country is going ahead and the country has attained self-sufficiency in the field of construction of destroyer in accordance with its operational requirements," Admiral Irani said. He, meantime, pointed to the presence of the naval fleet of the country in strategic waters of the world, including the Atlantic Ocean, and said, "Iran's Navy Force can be present in any part of the world using sea with utmost power and might."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000712000496/Navy-Cmmander-Iran-Bild-Mdern-Desryers>

US ready ‘to turn to other options’ if Iran fails to return to nuclear deal: Official

Alarabiya, October 5, 2021

The US is ready to “turn to other options” if diplomacy fails to convince Iran of the need to return to the original nuclear deal, a senior Biden administration official said Monday. Speaking to reporters ahead of a visit to Washington by Israel’s National Security Council chief, the US official said meetings would focus on regional issues and, “of course, Iran.” White House National Security Council head Jake Sullivan is scheduled to meet his Israeli counterpart, Eyal Hulata, on Tuesday. His visit comes on the heels of Sullivan’s trip last week to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/10/05/Iran-to-be-focus-of-high-level-US-Israel-meeting-in-Washington-Senior-official>

FM: Iran Only to Accept Tangible Results in Vienna Talks

Fars News Agency, October 6, 2021

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in a meeting with a group of

managers of Iranian foundations in Moscow underlined that Tehran will only accept concrete results in the Vienna nuclear talks. "If we achieve tangible achievements in securing the rights of the Iranian people in the forthcoming Vienna talks with the other parties, this agreement will contribute to the 13th administration's sustainable economic development program," Amir Abdollahian said during the meeting on Tuesday. "If the negotiation process, like the previous eight years, is going to continue in the same direction, that is, negotiations for negotiations, the Islamic Republic of Iran will take the appropriate decision," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000714000631/FM-Iran-Only-Accep-Tangible-Resls-in-Vienna-Talks>

Iran's FM says Saudi Arabia talks have progressed 'good distance'

Al-Monitor, October 7, 2021

Direct talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran have progressed a "good distance," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told reporters on Thursday. Saudi Arabia and Iran have taken a major step aimed at easing the tensions, confirming earlier this year that they held direct talks in Baghdad. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan confirmed that the kingdom held meetings over the weekend with officials from the new Iranian government led by ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi. The last round of talks took place on Sept. 21, he said, declining to name the location. "These discussions are still in the exploratory phase. We hope they will provide a basis to address unresolved issues between the two sides and we will strive and work to realize that," the Saudi diplomat said in a news conference Sunday. Amir-Abdollahian said the talks are

moving forward during a news conference in Beirut, Reuters reports.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/irans-fm-says-saudi-arabia-talks-have-progressed-good-distance#ixzz7B8EZmZU4>

Iranian state TV claims boats chased US Navy ship

Al-Monitor, October 7, 2021

Iranian state television aired footage Thursday claiming to show Iranian Revolutionary Guard fast boats approaching a US Navy ship, but the US has not confirmed the incident. A spokesperson for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, Cdr. Tim Hawkins, told the Associated Press today that he was unaware of any recent unsafe encounters with Iranian vessels. Such run-ins have occurred occasionally in the Persian Gulf over the past several years. Fast approaches by Iranian boats, which the US often describes as "unsafe" and "unprofessional," have at times ceased for a period and later restarted without public explanation. Iran frequently denies US accusations surrounding such maneuvers.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/iranian-state-tv-claims-boats-chased-us-navy-ship#ixzz7B8FbHMqL>

Intel: US lifts Iran-related sanctions, says no connection to nuclear deal

Al-Monitor, October 8, 2021

The US Treasury Department delisted Iran-based entities on Friday that were sanctioned by the Trump administration for their alleged involvement in Iran's ballistic missile program. The department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) determined Mammut Industrial Group and its subsidiary, Mammut Diesel, are no

longer blocked under Executive Order 13382, which targets proliferators of weapons of mass destruction and their supporters. The two entities were removed from OFAC's list of Specially Designated Nationals. The Trump administration sanctioned Mammut Industrial Group and Mammut Diesel in September 2020, accusing them of being "key producers and suppliers of military-grade, dual-use goods for Iran's missile programs."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/intel-us-lifts-iran-related-sanctions-says-no-connection-nuclear-deal#ixzz7B8HPW7wA>

President Rayeesi: Iran Not to Quit Using Peaceful Nuclear Energy

Fars News Agency, October 9, 2021

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi underlined his country's peaceful use of the nuclear technology, and said Tehran is resolved to continue the same path in future. "Nuclear knowledge in the future will determine the remarkable scientific development and progress of countries, and we should not lag behind the world's scientific movement," the Iranian president said in the southern province of Bushehr on Friday. He reiterated that Iran needs wise and purposeful planning for the sustainable development of the nuclear industry based on the latest international standards in order to stand at the top economic, scientific and technological position in the region. "The necessary mechanism has been developed in this regard and provided to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI)," President Rayeesi added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000717000209/Presiden-Rayeesi-Iran-N-Qi-Using-Peacefl-Nclear-Energy>

Process to review JCPOA talks will soon reach conclusion, Iran says

Tehran Times, October 9, 2021

There are two stages for reviewing six rounds of talks to revive the JCPOA in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman says. The first process of reviewing the negotiations has been concluded and based on that Iran decided to resume talks with the P4+1 in Vienna and the second process will soon reach the conclusion, Saeed Khatibzadeh said. "As soon as the process of reviewing the previous talks is over, the talks will begin," Khatibzadeh told France 24. Khatibzadeh was commenting on remarks by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian that the nuclear talks will be resumed in the near future.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465831/Process-to-review-JCPOA-talks-will-soon-reach-conclusion-Iran>

Leader Calls for Punishment of Terrorists Attacking Kunduz Mosque in Afghanistan

Fars News Agency, October 10, 2021

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in Afghanistan's Kunduz region, and called for punishment of the culprits behind the heinous crime. In a message of condolence to Afghan officials on Saturday, Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that the tragic incident caused a lot of grief and sorrow. Iran's Supreme Leader called on officials in the neighboring and brotherly country of Afghanistan to bring bloodthirsty perpetrators behind the heinous crime to justice and take the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies. A bomb blast near a Shia mosque in Kunduz

province on Friday killed at least 50 people and injured more than 90 others.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000718000310/Leader-Calls-fr-Pnishmen-f-Terriss-Aacking-Kndz-Mse-in-Afghanisan>

Eslami: Major difference between Safeguards cameras and those of JCPOA

Tehran Times, October 10, 2021

Mohammad Eslami, Vice President and Chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Saturday night that there is a great difference between the IAEA camera monitoring Iran's nuclear activities under the safeguard agreement with those installed under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Eslami said IAEA inspectors examine the monitoring cameras at the site in a specified time and install new card memories. The old memory cards are cut into pieces and put in a stamped pocket and given to the AEOI for storing. He said nobody can have access to these pieces. However, the issue is different with regard to cameras related to the JCPOA in a way that IAEA inspectors remove the old memory cards and stamp them and they are kept by the AEOI in a safe place and are not reviewed by anybody, Eslami explained. The nuclear chief added nobody is given access to the old cards and they are just replaced by new ones.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465877/Eslami-Major-difference-between-Safeguards-cameras-and-those>

Iran's Border Guards Hold Military Drill in Persian Gulf Waters

Fars News Agency, October 10, 2021

Iranian Border Guards launched a military drill in the Northern waters of the Persian

Gulf on Sunday. During the military drill, the commandos and special forces of the Border Guards displayed their defense and combat capabilities in the Northern waters of the Persian Gulf in a bid to ensure the security of the country's borders. Iranian Border Guards Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi underlined that the duty of Border Guards at sea borders is to control and coordinate border exchanges and establish maritime discipline in a way that ensures the security of the Persian Gulf region. He reiterated that under the auspices of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, security of the Persian Gulf is under the strict supervision and protection of the Armed Forces which is necessary for the country and also neighboring countries.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000718000499/Iran's-Brder-Gards-Hld-Miliary-Drill-in-Persian-Glf-Waers>

Baqeri to visit Pakistan on Tuesday

Tehran Times, October 11, 2021

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Chief of the Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, is scheduled to pay an official visit to Pakistan on Tuesday at the invitation of Pakistan's Army Commander General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The visit is set to expand the military-defense diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Baqeri is scheduled to meet with senior Pakistani political, military and security officials. He is leading a high-ranking military, security and defense delegation. Meetings with the Prime Minister, Army Commander, Commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other Pakistani military officials are on Baqeri's agenda during his stay in Islamabad. The members of the high-ranking Iranian military delegation will visit the port city of Karachi in southern

Pakistan and some military and naval centers of the neighboring country as part of their visit to Pakistan.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465916/Baqeri-to-visit-Pakistan-on-Tuesday>

Iran's Army, IRGC Start Massive Air Defense Drills in Central Desert Region

Fars News Agency, October 12, 2021

Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) started large-scale aerial drills aimed at enhancing preparedness for defending the country's skies against threats. The operational phase of the joint large-scale drill, codenamed Modafe'an-e Aseman-e Velayat 1400 (Defenders of Velayat Skies 1400), began earlier today (Tuesday morning) in the central desert areas of Iran. The units of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force, the IRGC Aerospace Division and the Army's Air Force are taking part in the exercises. The drill is aimed at boosting the combat preparedness, strengthening deterrent power, evaluating the homegrown air defense systems in countering various threats, full defense against electronic warfare and cyberattacks, improving knowledge and skill of the units and boosting coordination among the Army and the IRGC's command and control centers.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000720000218/Iran's-Army-IRGC-Sar-Massive-Air-Defense-Drills-in-Cenral-Deser-Regin>

Missiles not subject to negotiation, Iranian MP says

Tehran Times, October 12, 2021

The deputy chairman of the National Security Committee of the Parliament has said Iran has negotiated on its nuclear program within the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) but the Islamic

Republic will not negotiate on other issues, including its defensive missile program. In an interview with Mehr on Tuesday, Abbas Moqtadaei reacted to recent remarks by some Western officials who have said Iran's missiles should also be discussed in the talks intended revive the JCPOA, saying, "Westerners should know that an independent and powerful country like the Islamic Republic of Iran is not being blackmailed, and if we managed the Holy Defense for eight years and resisted the U.S. sanctions and pressure, they were just because we wanted to maintain our independence."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465955/Missiles-not-subject-to-negotiation-Iranian-MP-says>

Iran launches air defense exercises

Tehran Times, October 12, 2021

The joint specialized air defense exercise of the Modafe'an-e Aseman-e Velayat (Defenders of Sky of Velayat) kicked off on Tuesday morning in Iran's central desert. The military drill kicked off with the deployment of indigenous missile, radar, reconnaissance, electronic warfare, communication systems, and visual surveillance network, Fars News reported. Announcing the start of the exercise, Brigadier General Qader Rahimzadeh, Commander of Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base, said in the first phase of air defense exercise, the deployment of defense systems with "the rapid reaction of operational forces in accordance with the principles of passive defense to deceive the enemy were carried out." Pointing to the use of indigenous air defense systems in the exercise, the commander of air defense base said stationing command and control systems, the indigenous Meraj radar systems, Fatah-2 radars, tactical

intelligence and reconnaissance systems, electro-optical systems and electronic warfare systems were used in the exercise.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465954/Iran-launches-air-defense-exercises>

Iran's Armed Forces Crush Mid-Altitude Targets in Military Drills

Fars News Agency, October 13, 2021

The Iranian Armed Forces conducted a successful test of shooting medium-altitude targets during military drills in the Central desert regions of the country by utilizing completely indigenous military hardware. Modafe'an-e Aseman-e Velayat 1400 (Defenders of Velayat Skies 1400), the military drills kicked off in the country's Central Desert on Tuesday, with the goal of practicing defensive maneuvers in the service of the country's "sensitive and vital" spots and testing the operational maneuverability of the Armed Forces' new-generation defensive equipment among other things. The first day of the major Air Defense drills by the various branches of Iran's Armed Forces saw the forces successfully laying into medium-altitude targets using completely indigenous military hardware. The drills have so far recruited the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) and Air Defense Force (IRIADF) as well as the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Aerospace Division. Commander of Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Qader Rahimzadeh specified the Air Defense systems deployed during the first day as the domestically-manufactured Mersad-16, Tabas, Khordad-3, and Khordad-15.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000721000405/Iran's-Armed-Frces-Crsh-Mid-Altide-Targes-in-Miliary-Drills>

Blinken warns Iran 'time is running short' on nuclear deal return

Al-Monitor, October 13, 2021

Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned "time is running short" for Iran to re-enter the landmark agreement that curbed its nuclear activities, adding the United States is prepared to pursue "other options" if Tehran doesn't resume compliance. "We're united in the proposition that Iran cannot be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon," Blinken said in a joint press conference alongside his counterparts from the United Arab Emirates and Israel. "With every passing day, and Iran's refusal to engage in good faith, the runway gets short," he added.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/blinken-warns-iran-time-running-short-nuclear-deal-return#ixzz7B8lpwS6z>

IRGC Operates Its Domestically-Built Qods Radar for 1st Time in Drills

Fars News Agency, October 13, 2021

Domestically-Built Qods Radar was put into operation for the first time by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force in the operational phase of the joint large-scale drills, codenamed Modafe'an-e Aseman-e Velayat 1400 (Defenders of Velayat Skies 1400) in Iran's Central Desert region. Qods Radar is able to monitor targets at a 500km range and altitude of over 90,000 feet. Tactical and single-vehicle capability, domestic software, the ability to deal with electronic warfare in various techniques, friend-enemy detection system and the ability to link with defense systems are among the characteristics of Qods radar system. Iranian Army and the IRGC started large-scale aerial drills aimed at enhancing

preparedness for defending the country's skies against threats.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000721000493/IRGC-Operates-Is-Dmesically-Bil-Qds-Radar-fr-s-Time-in-Drills>

Iran, Pakistan Discuss Ways to Enhance Naval Cooperation

Fars News Agency, October 14, 2021

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri and Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in a meeting in Islamabad on Thursday reviewed ways to further expand relations and cooperation between the two countries' navies. General Baqeri and Admiral Amjad Niazi exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, the latest state of fraternal relations between Iran and Pakistan, including the level of cooperation between the two countries' navies. The two sides discussed maritime security in the region and a wide range of other security developments. Over the past two days, General Baqeri held meetings and consultations with the Pakistani political and military leaders. He met with Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Reza, and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000722000400/Iran-Pakistan-Discuss-Ways-Enhance-Naval-Cooperation>

Commander: IRGC Navy in Full Control over Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz

Fars News Agency, October 15, 2021

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami underlined that the IRGC Navy has full control over the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz by means of modern

electronic warfare. General Salami's positive assessment of defense-battle preparedness the IRGC Navy came after his visit to the IRGC Command in the Persian Gulf islands and the Strait of Hormuz on Friday. "The enemies of Iran must come to the understanding that any action from enemies at any scale and any place will not be tolerated by Iran and will receive quick, decisive, strict response," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000723000326/Commander-IRGC-Navy-in-Full-Control-over-Persian-Gulf-Strait-of-Hormuz>

IRAQ

Destruction hideout for Daesh by an air strike in Dayala

Iraqi News Agency, October 3, 2021

The Security Media Cell announced that a hideout of terrorist gangs had been destroyed by an Iraqi air strike in Dayala Governorate. The cell stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), today, Sunday, "that according to accurate intelligence information from the Intelligence Authority the targeting Cell of the Joint Operations Command, and after monitoring the movements of Daesh terrorist gangs in Al-Thalab valley within the sector of responsibility of the Dayala Operations Command, a Directing an air strike by air force planes."

<https://ina.iq/eng/14504-destruction-hideout-for-daesh-by-an-air-strike-in-dayala.html>

Parliamentary Security Committee: Tendency to buy air defense system from three countries

Iraqi News Agency, October 4, 2021

The Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee revealed an Iraqi tendency to purchase an air defense system from three

countries, while confirming that the draft federal budget law for 2022 will allocate a budget to the Ministry of Defense to purchase such a system. "The failure to equip the Ministry of Defense with advanced and modern weapons during the current year is due to the financial crisis and the limited allocations of the ministry within the 2021 budget," said the Committee member Badr Al-Ziyadi in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA). He added, "Iraq needs an advanced air defense system to cover all its lands and hold the land from north to south," pointing out that "the prices of these systems are high, and there is an Iraqi trend towards France, Korea and Russia regarding the air defense system,"

<https://ina.iq/eng/14527-parliamentary-security-committee-tendency-to-buy-air-defense-system-from-three-countries.html>

ISRAEL

Iran not getting the bomb any time soon - Military intelligence head

The Jerusalem Post, October 3, 2021

Despite enriching uranium at a level not seen before, Iran still has a long way to go before acquiring a nuclear bomb, according to Israel's Military Intelligence head Maj.-Gen. Tamir Hayman. According to Hayman, while the levels of enriched uranium are "disturbing," the Islamic Republic still has a long way to go before acquiring a functioning nuclear bomb that can threaten Israel. "There is an enriched amount [of uranium] in volumes that we have not seen before and it is disturbing. At the same time, in all other aspects of the Iranian nuclear project, we see no progress," Hayman said in an interview with Walla News. "Not in the weapons project, in the financial area, not in any other sector. Therefore the period of time that still remains of two years has not

changed. Because even from the moment you have a breakout, there is still a long way to go before a bomb," he said. "To the best of our knowledge, the directive has not changed and they are not heading toward a breakout. They are not heading toward a bomb right now: It may be in the distant future."

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/head-of-military-intelligence-iran-not-getting-the-bomb-any-time-soon-680853>

Lapid to meet Blinken in Washington next week

The Jerusalem Post, October 4, 2021

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is expected to visit Washington to meet with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken next week. Iran is likely to be a top item on the agenda for the meeting, with talks to return to the 2015 nuclear deal, as the Biden administration hoped to do, stalled for over four months. Last week, Blinken said of the negotiations: "The ball remains in their court, but not for long." The secretary of state explained that Iran is nearing the point of advancement in its nuclear program at which the benefits of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the 2015 deal is called, will no longer be relevant.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/lapid-to-meet-blinken-in-washington-next-week-681003>

Israel: Iran Tried to Kill Israeli Businesspeople in Cyprus

Haaretz, October 4, 2021

Iran attempted to carry out a "terror attack" targeting Israeli businesspeople in Cyprus, a spokesman for the Israeli government said Monday, following reports of an attempted assassination of Israeli-Cypriot billionaire

Teddy Sagi. "This is not a criminal incident," said Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's spokesman, Matan Sidi. Sagi, he added, "was not the target." The Iranian embassy in Nicosia told Reuters that Israel is "always making such a baseless allegation against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/business/israel-iran-trying-to-kill-israeli-businesspeople-in-cyprus-1.10264421>

Kohavi: operations to stop Iran will continue in every arena always

The Jerusalem Post, October 5, 2021

In his speech at his exit ceremony, the outgoing commander of the Military Intelligence Directorate discussed the threat of Iranian hostility. "The Iranian challenge is prevalent because of the concerning development in their nuclear weapon as well as their regional influences in their surface-to-surface missile and unmanned aerial vehicle abilities," he said. "Iran is the source of the power in the forces against us — Iran funds, encourages and spurs [the forces against Israel]. "Despite the fact that Iran is an unjust totalitarian authority that oppresses its citizens and is destined to fall, the government is stable for now. History teaches us about such dark regimes. We need to act to quicken the process that are bound to occur in the future."

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/outgoing-intelligence-commander-iran-is-the-source-of-power-against-us-681114>

Lapid heads to Washington to meet Harris, Blinken, Sullivan, Pelosi

The Jerusalem Post, October 11, 2021

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid left for Washington on Monday night for a series of

high-level meetings and a celebration of the Abraham Accords. The three-day trip includes a trilateral meeting and press conference with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, marking a year since the Abraham Accords were announced, establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and the UAE. They will also have dinner together.

Lapid is expected to meet with Vice President Kamala Harris and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and to hold a separate meeting with Blinken. Iran is the top item on the agenda for Lapid's meetings with US officials. He seeks to encourage action against Iran's nuclear program, which Tehran has been advancing while sending mixed messages about whether it will return to indirect negotiations with the US.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/lapid-heads-to-washington-to-meet-harris-blinken-sullivan-pelosi-681669>

Bennett to meet with Putin in Russia next week

The Jerusalem Post, October 12, 2021

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett plans to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi, Russia, next Friday.

They plan to discuss diplomatic, security and economic matters, as well as regional issues, foremost of which is the Iranian nuclear threat, the Prime Minister's Office said. Putin invited Bennett to Sochi, the town on the Black Sea where he has a vacation home. The invitation comes on the heels of a phone call between the two leaders last Thursday. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with his

Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in Moscow on Wednesday.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/bennett-will-fly-to-sochi-to-meet-with-putin-on-october-22-681745>

Amid Israeli threats, Iran touts successful test of anti-missile defense system

Times of Israel, October 13, 2021

The Iranian military said Wednesday it had successfully tested anti-missile defenses for “sensitive” sites during war games in central Iran, after Israeli and US warnings over its nuclear program. “The country’s air defenses are perfectly prepared to protect sensitive and vital installations through a multi-layered defense system,” said General Amir-Qader Rahimzadeh, commander of Hazrat Khatam al-Anbiya airbase at Semnan, quoted by the Fars news agency. The exercises, which began on Tuesday, combined the army’s “Majid” defense system with the “Dezful” system of the elite Revolutionary Guard Corps to destroy incoming cruise missiles. Iran’s central region is home to the Natanz enrichment plant and other nuclear sites.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-israeli-threats-iran-touts-successful-test-of-anti-missile-defense-system/>

LEBANON

New U.S. Sea Border Mediator to Visit Lebanon

Naharnet, October 5, 2021

U.S. mediator in talks between Israel and Lebanon over the maritime frontier demarcation between the two countries--will arrive in Lebanon mid-October to discuss resuming the negotiations, al-Liwaa newspaper said Tuesday. Hochstein had in the past agreed with Parliament Speaker

Nabih Berri on a framework that led to the indirect negotiations, after which another U.S. mediator was appointed. Hochstein was appointed by U.S. President Joe Biden to handle the border dispute, replacing U.S. diplomat John Desrocher who had mediated indirect negotiations under the Trump administration. The last U.S.-sponsored negotiations between Israel and Lebanon on the maritime border demarcation were held in May.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/284584-new-u-s-sea-border-mediator-to-visit-lebanon>

Israel Says Lebanon 'Can't Dictate Lines' in Sea Border Talks

Naharnet, October 6, 2021

Lebanon "cannot dictate the lines" in its sea border talks with Israel, an Israeli minister has said. "We need to look for a solution that leads to a breakthrough and not try to think in the old ways of drawing lines," Israeli Energy Minister Karine Elharrar said. "We started (negotiations) by one line and then they (Lebanon) pushed the line. Pushing and pushing the lines literally," Elharrar added. "It's not the way to have a negotiation. They cannot dictate the lines," she went on to say.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/284642-israel-says-lebanon-can-t-dictate-lines-in-sea-border-talks>

USAID Launches \$29 Million Project to Deliver Reliable Energy across Lebanon

Naharnet, October 6, 2021

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will "provide up to \$29 million to deliver reliable energy across all regions of Lebanon," the U.S. Embassy said on Wednesday. The Embassy added in a statement that USAID has awarded a contract to IMC Worldwide, Inc. to

implement the Innovation for Affordable and Renewable Energy for All (INARA) Activity under the Initiative to Deliver Essential Assistance and Services (IDEAS) Project that is designed to provide up to \$29 million to deliver reliable energy across all regions of Lebanon.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/284645-usaid-launches-29-million-project-to-deliver-reliable-energy-across-lebanon>

Iranian FM in Beirut Discusses 'Positive' Iran-Saudi Talks

Naharnet, October 7, 2021

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian arrived overnight in Lebanon on an official visit to meet with Lebanese leaders. He was welcomed at the airport by a delegation from Amal movement and Hizbullah, along with the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, the Director of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a delegation of religious scholars. Lawmaker Ayyoub Hmayyed representing Speaker Nabih Berri praised the Iranian “pivotal role in Lebanon’s victory in the July war against Israel and in the liberation (of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.)”

Abdollahian from his side congratulated Lebanon for the new government and declared Iran’s “firm position” to support Lebanon.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/284659-iranian-fm-in-beirut-discusses-positive-iran-saudi-talks>

Iran FM in Beirut: We’re Ready to Reconstruct Beirut Port, Build Two Power Plants

Naharnet, October 7, 2021

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Thursday that Iran is ready to rebuild Beirut port and that Iranian

firms can build two power plants in Lebanon within 18 months. He stated in a joint press conference with his Lebanese counterpart Abdullah Bou Habib that “Iranian specialized companies are willing to build two power plants with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts in Beirut and the South within 18 months.” He added that his country is “fully ready to rebuild Beirut port if the Lebanese side asks for that.”

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/284685-iran-fm-in-beirut-we-re-ready-to-reconstruct-beirut-port-build-two-power-plants>

Six killed in shooting at Hezbollah protest over Beirut explosion probe

Al-Monitor, October 14, 2021

Several people were killed in Beirut Thursday in a shooting at a protest. A total of six people have been confirmed dead so far in addition to 32 wounded in relation to the shooting in south Beirut’s Tayouneh neighborhood, the Ministry of Public Health announced. The shooting occurred at a protest organized by the Shiite Islamist groups Hezbollah and Amal. Their supporters were demonstrating over the government probe into the 2020 Beirut port explosion and calling for the “non-politicization” of the investigation, the Hezbollah-affiliated Al-Manar TV reported.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/six-killed-shooting-hezbollah-protest-over-beirut-explosion-probe#ixzz7BhGPBxp8>

Lebanese president warns against return to 'dark page from our history'

Al-Monitor, October 15, 2021

Lebanese President Michel Aoun pleaded with citizens Thursday night to not return to

the violence of the civil war following a deadly shooting in Beirut. “It is not acceptable for arms to return as a language of communication between the Lebanese parties because we all agreed to turn this dark page from our history,” said Aoun in a speech, as reported by the official National News Agency. On Thursday, six people were fatally shot at a protest in Beirut. The demonstration was organized by the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah and Amal groups against the government’s investigation into the 2020 Beirut port explosion. Hezbollah blamed the Christian group Lebanese Forces for the shooting, though its leader condemned the incident.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/lebanese-president-warns-against-return-dark-page-our-history#ixzz7BhI41FiD>

US to give \$67 million to Lebanon’s military as violence erupts in Beirut

Al-Monitor, October 15, 2021

The Biden administration is sending Lebanon’s military an additional \$67 million in a bid to keep the cash-strapped country’s largest functioning security institution from collapsing. Victoria Nuland, the US State Department’s second-highest official, announced the new aid during a visit to Beirut on Thursday. “Today, I’m pleased to announce an additional \$67 million in new US support for the Lebanese Army, bringing our total of support this year to \$187 million,” Nuland told journalists in the Lebanese capital.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/us-give-67-million-lebanons-military-violence-erupts-beirut#ixzz7BhOE8CMk>

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia’s FM: Talks with Iran are still in exploratory phase

Alarabiya, October 3, 2021

Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said on Sunday that talks between the Kingdom and Iran remain in the “exploratory phase”. “The fourth round of talks took place on September 21. These discussions remain in the exploratory phase. We hope they lay the foundation to address the issues between the two sides and we will work to achieve that,” Prince Faisal said in a joint press conference with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said last month that talks between Tehran and Riyadh achieved “serious progress” on the issue of Gulf security.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/03/Saudi-Arabia-s-FM-Talks-with-Iran-are-still-in-exploratory-phase>

Saudi air defenses intercept Houthi drone targeting Abha airport, four injured

Alarabiya, October 7, 2021

Saudi Arabia’s air defenses have intercepted a booby-trapped drone launched by the Iran-backed Houthis in attempt to carry out an attack on Abha International Airport. “Shrapnel have scattered and fell in the vicinity of Abha’s internal airport as a result of the interception,” a statement by the Arab Coalition added. “The shrapnel have caused minor injuries to four employees of Abha International Airport and some windows had been shattered. The Houthi attempt to target civilians at Abha Airport as a civilian

airport constitutes a war crime. We are taking operational measures to neutralize the sources of threat used in the attempt to attack Abha airport,” the coalition added. Last month, eight people had been injured in Houthi drone strikes on Saudi Arabia's Abha airport that also damaged a civilian airplane.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/07/Saudi-air-defenses-intercept-Houthi-booby-trapped-drone-attacking-Abha-airport>

US embassy in Saudi Arabia condemns Houthi attacks on Abha airport

Alarabiya, October 7, 2021

The US Embassy in Saudi Arabia on Thursday condemned the Houthi attacks that targeted Abha airport in the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia's air defense intercepted a booby-trapped drone launched by the Houthis towards Abha International Airport early Thursday. “The Houthis tried again to target Abha airport. This attack resulted in the injury of four innocent civilians. We condemn the outrageous attacks by the Houthis against civilians,” a Twitter post by the Embassy on Thursday stated.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/07/US-embassy-in-Saudi-Arabia-condemns-Houthi-attacks-on-Abha-airport>

Saudi Arabia calls on UN Security Council to hold Houthi militia accountable

Alarabiya. October 12, 2021

Saudi Arabia on Saturday called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to hold the Iran-backed Houthi militia accountable in accordance with international law for their ongoing attacks against civilians in the Kingdom, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA)

reported. “The Kingdom will spare no effort in taking all necessary measures to protect its lands and preserve the safety of its citizens and residents, according to its obligations under international law,” the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN, Ambassador Abdallah al-Mouallimi, said in a message sent to the UN Security Council. In the letter, the ambassador wrote about the continuation of “terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Iranian-backed terrorist Houthi militia against civilians and civilian objects in the Kingdom.”

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/10/Saudi-Arabia-calls-on-UN-Security-Council-to-hold-Houthi-militia-accountable>

Malaysian team visits Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition

Saudi Gazette, October 12, 2021

The Secretary General of Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, has received Malaysian Deputy Minister of Defence Dato' Sri Ikmal Hisham Bin Abdul Aziz and the accompanying delegation at IMCTC's headquarters in Riyadh. The Malaysian delegation was briefed on IMCTC's counterterrorism efforts across four domains (ideology, communications, counter terrorist financing, and military) and IMCTC's role in coordinating member countries' efforts in this regard. During the meeting, the two sides also discussed cooperation between the IMCTC and Malaysia.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/612091/SAUDI-ARABIA/Malaysian-team-visits-Islamic-Military-Counter-Terrorism-Coalition>

Region is entering a dangerous phase due to Iran's activities: Saudi FM

Alarabiya, October 15, 2021

Saudi Arabia's top diplomat said Friday that Iran's nuclear activities put the region in a dangerous place. Iran's accelerating nuclear activities were very concerning, Prince Faisal bin Farhan told reporters during a briefing in Washington. "We think we're entering a dangerous phase," he said, a day after meeting with his US counterpart Antony Blinken on Thursday.

As for talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Prince Faisal acknowledged them but said no "substantial progress" had been made. "We're committed to continuing these discussions," he added.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/15/Region-is-entering-a-dangerous-phase-due-to-Iran-s-activities-Saudi-FM>

SYRIA

Hmeimim air defense system downs a drone launched by terrorists

Syrian Arab News Republic, October 4, 2021

The air defense system in Hmeimim base downed on Monday a drone launched by terrorist organizations positioned in Idleb that was heading towards the base in Lattakia countryside. "Terrorist groups positioned in the area between the countryside of Lattakia and Idleb launched this morning a weaponized drone that tried to approach the base, but the air defenses immediately shot it down before reaching the base," Russian Sputnik News Agency quoted a source at the base as saying. No casualties or material damages were reported, and Hmeimim base continues to operate normally, according to the source.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=250411>

Sabbagh: some countries still politicize chemical file in Syria

Syrian Arab News Republic, October 4, 2021

Syria's permanent representative to the UN, Bassam Sabbagh, said on Monday that Syria reaffirms its rejection and condemnation of using chemical weapons under any circumstance, by anyone, at any place or time. Sabbagh added at UN security council session that some countries still politicize the chemical file in Syria, turning a blind eye to its cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons(OPCW), and direct baseless accusations against the country.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=250481>

Russia ramps up strikes on Islamic State in Syrian desert

Al-Monitor, October 7, 2021

Islamic State attacks in the Syrian desert have escalated over the past two weeks, causing heavy losses among the Syrian government forces and their allied militias. Russia has intensified airstrikes on IS positions in support of regime forces as they attack IS positions and hideouts in the rugged desert areas. A tribal official told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity, "The Russian air raids have significantly increased since the beginning of October, targeting IS sites in the Ithriyah-Khanaser-Rusafa triangle. [Russian] planes also bombed IS sites in the rugged hills surrounding the Sukhnah area on the Deir ez-Zor-Homs road, killing 10 IS fighters and destroying several hideouts and fortifications used by the militant group."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/russia-ramps-strikes-islamic-state-syrian-desert#ixzz7BiD7zKYV>

Syrian jihadist group, Turkish-backed opposition reportedly consider merger

Al-Monitor, October 8, 2021

Syrian opposition media sources are reporting that the Syrian National Army (SNA) affiliated with the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) will be widely deployed in the city of Idlib, in northwestern Syria, which is under the control of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). Enab Baladi website quoted an SNA leader as saying that they have received information that the SNA will deploy in Idlib. Another commander of an SNA-affiliated group confirmed the information to Enab Baladi. The information comes amid reports that had been circulating for months about the possibility of a merger between the SNA and HTS.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/syrian-jihadist-group-turkish-backed-opposition-reportedly-consider-merger#ixzz7BiDH3rC1>

Eight attacks launched by al-Nusra terrorists in Idleb de-escalation zone

Syrian Arab News Agency, October 14, 2021

Terrorist organizations deployed in Idleb de-escalation zone have carried out eight attacks over the last 24th hours, according to the Russian Ministry of Defense. “Eight attacks were observed in the areas where terrorist organizations affiliated with Jabhat al-Nusra are deployed, 5 of which in Aleppo province, and an attack in each of Hama, Idleb and Lattakia,” Hmeimim-based Russian coordination center stated in a statement.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=251370>

Hashim Safi Al-Din, Head Of Hizbullah's Executive Council, Amid

'Death To America' Chants: The US Is Behind Deadly Beirut Shootout, Sows Sectarian Strife To Drag Us Into Civil War

MEMRI TV, October 15, 2021

On October 15, 2021, Hashim Safi Al-Din, the head of Hizbullah's Executive Council, spoke at the funeral of victims of a shootout that left seven people dead and at least 30 injured the previous day during a rally in Beirut. Safi Al-Din said that the shootout had been an act of “premeditated” murder carried out by the Lebanese Forces Party at the behest of the United States, and with the funding of certain Arabs, in order to drag Lebanon into another civil war. Safi Al-Din said: “We will not let the blood of our martyrs [be] spilled in vain.” He and the audience chanted: “Death to America!” The October 14 rally had been organized by Hizbullah and Amal to demand the dismissal of the lead investigator of the 2020 Beirut port explosion. Safi Al-Din's statements aired on Al-Manar TV (Hizbullah-Lebanon).

<https://www.memri.org/tv/hizbulah-hashem-safi-aldin-america-behind-beirut-shootout>

TURKEY

Turkish firms develop new kamikaze UAV against drone-borne threats

Daily Sabah, October 6, 2021

group of Turkish defense contractors is testing a kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that will be used to counter and neutralize other drone-borne threats.

The UAV is part of a wide range of drone detection and destruction systems developed by Havelsan and Transvaro, exhibited at the 3rd Military Radar and Border Security Summit, organized by the Independent Industrialists and

Businesspersons Association (MÜSIAD) in Ankara. Speaking to Anadolu Agency (AA) at the summit, Havelsan Command Control Defense Technologies Business Development Manager Nezi̇h ŐiŐman said the threat posed by low-cost drones or UAVs is increasing by the day.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-firms-develop-new-kamikaze-uav-against-drone-borne-threats>

Turkish defense industry develops CIWS for naval platforms

Daily Sabah, October 7, 2021

Turkish defense industry showcased a prototype of its domestically-produced short-range air defense system which will be used on naval platforms at the International Military Radar and Border Security Summit held in the capital Ankara between Oct. 5-6. The system was produced by the Machinery and Chemical Industry (MKE AŐ) and is expected to replace the U.S.-made Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS). It will provide protection against guided missiles, air-to-surface missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), planes and helicopters. The system, whose tests are scheduled to begin at the end of this year, can be placed on any ship with a combat management system. It is expected to enter the inventory by 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-industry-develops-ciws-for-naval-platforms>

Turkish advanced multifunctional UAV testing flight by month's end

Anadolu Agency, October 10, 2021

Turkey will soon have a state-of-the-art multifunctional unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) testing flight, which can be utilized as a self-defense deterrent against drones or

used in an assault, said a senior official of a Turkish manufacturing company. Guray Ali Canli, a member of the executive board of Transvaro, which manufactured Fedai, told Anadolu Agency that the device has a protection system developed to stop UAV/drone attacks, but the vehicle itself can be used for an attack in the future if needed. He said their primary goal is to shoot down armed drones and UAVs, but by changing the warhead, Fedai can also be used as an anti-tank, anti-personnel defense system, or a vehicle capable of attacking itself. "The wing and follower tracking mechanism structure of the Fedai is different from all other products," Canli explained, adding that when the threat approaches, it explodes on the target with its own optical search system.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/turkish-advanced-multifunctional-uav-testing-flight-by-months-end/2388013>

Biden administration reportedly backs Turkey's \$6B F-16 deal request

Daily Sabah, October 12, 2021

Turkey's request for Lockheed Martin-made F-16 fighter jets and modernization kits to upgrade its existing warplanes is valued at \$6 billion (TL 54.02 billion), according to Turkish sources who spoke to two different media organizations Tuesday. Considering U.S. Congress' opposition to Ankara purchasing arms due to several lingering issues, it was thought that it would be difficult to win approval for the deal, however, reports have said that the new U.S. administration supports it. Turkey on Sept. 30 sent a formal request to the U.S. to purchase 40 new F-16 Block 70 aircraft and nearly 80 kits to modernize its F-16 fighters, two officials familiar with the matter were cited as saying by Bloomberg. The report said President Recep Tayyip

Erdoğan is expected to hold a meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden at the upcoming global G-20 summit. There has been no official announcement or meeting scheduled as of yet.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/biden-administration-reportedly-backs-turkeys-6b-f-16-deal-request>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE's Abdullah bin Zayed meets US, Israel FMs, plans to bolster religious coexistence

Alaarabiya, October 14, 2021

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the United Arab Emirates, said the UAE, US and Israel have agreed on establishing two new working groups; with one focusing on religious coexistence and the other on water and energy issues. The UAE top diplomat made the statements as he met in Washington DC the Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, state news agency Wam reported on Thursday. Sheikh Abdullah said the three-way meeting reflects the US's commitment to build bridges of cooperation between two nations that are "committed to achieving advancement and development." "Our presence here today reaffirms our commitment to the necessity of changing the prevailing conditions in the region in the right direction," Sheikh Abdullah noted.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/14/UAE-s-Abdullah-bin-Zayed-meets-US-Israel-FMs-plans-to-bolster-religious-coexistence>